Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—That does not concern the House.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—It does not concern the House? I say it does.

President.—Why do you want an intermediate order? Final orders have not been passed. The necessary materials are being collected, and the matter is being considered.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—If the Hon'ble Member had given that answer, I would not have asked for any other.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—I have given that answer. "Materials are being collected, and it is proposed to hold a conference, and final orders will be passed after that". That was my answer.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Whether the Government will be pleased to furnish copies of the Council Proceedings to the editors of the papers free as in British India?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—That is a matter regarding which orders have to be passed. It will be disposed of along with that question.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government dispose it off early?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Yes. We do not delay matters more than what is absolutely necessary.

President.—We do not purposely delay any matter.

The subordinate staff of the Government Press.

445. Mr. M. K. Raman.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

1. has the Diwan received any petition from the subordinate staff of the Government Press, Ernakulam, regarding their privilege leave, pay, pension, etc.;

2. does the Government intend to do anything for them as recommended by the Special Committee appointed for the purpose of investigating into their grievances;

3. are the task-workers in the Press entitled to get their pay on casual leave days; what is the rule in the matter; is the rule strictly adhered to; if not, how is the pay now calculated?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—1. Yes.

2. The Government have accepted most of the recommendations of the Committee, and have done all that is possible to better the condition of the Press employees. The task-workers in the Cochin Government Press are much better off already than their confreres elsewhere, e. g., the permanent piece-workers of the Madras Government Press.

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3. The task-workmen are given casual leave allowance. The rule is to calculate the allowance, on the average earning in the month, of the workmen concerned, so that they receive payment, as if they had attended to regular work on days on casual leave. This rule is adhered to.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—The answer is that most of the recommendations of the Committee have been accepted. Have the Committee recommended that the subordinate staff should be eligible for one month's privilege leave, furlough, etc?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—On such detailed examination, I am not prepared to answer. I want notice.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—How is this calculated now i., e., the remuneration of task-workers?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—According to the rules in *the Press Manual.*

Mr. M. K. Raman.—My question is whether the pay of the last year on which they retire or of previous years is taken into account for the calculation of pension.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—That is a matter of detail. I want notice.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Will the Secretary to the Diwan be able to say whether there was any recommendation by the Committee that they should be supplied with candle lights instead of kerosene lights?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Yes. There was one, I remember. Candle lights were once supplied, and it was found to be very unsatisfactory. Now, kerosene lights are supplied.

Mr. M. K. Raman,—In calculating casual leave allowance, what is the rule with regard to that. ?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The rule is contained in *the Press Manual.* I shall read that. Article 7 of *the Press Manual* runs thus:—

"*Leave.*—(a) Men on task-work are eligible for casual leave for 15 days in the year and are not eligible for any other leave carrying allowances, except leave on medical certificate. Others are eligible for all kinds of leave, under *the Cochin Service Regulations.* No leave can be claimed as a matter of right. Casual leave cannot be granted for more than five days at a time with the Secretary's sanction.

(b) "*Casual leave.*—The allowance to be paid to the task-workers during the period of casual leave may be calculated on their daily average earnings in the month.

(c) " In case of actual sickness leave on half-pay may be granted to the task-workers on production of medical certificate,

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their average earnings for the past full six months being taken as their pay for calculating leave allowance."

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Is it based on the number of days in the month and number of days they work in the month?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—I think it is the number of working days in the month.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Is it not possible to make it as the number of days they work in the month?

President.—That is a matter of detail. It has not been looked into.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Does the Member want notice upon that?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—That question has not been considered.

President.—That is, whether it should be the number of days they work or number of days in the month.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Are task-workers given any work on holidays, and for such work are they given any pay?

President.—Does not *the Press Manual* contain the rule regarding this?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—They are entitled to pay, if they work on holidays other than Gazetted holidays.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—What is the amount that the task-workers will be paid, if they work on holidays?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—There are rules in *the Press Manual* in connection with that. I am not sure what is paid to them.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—May I know what is the rule?

President.—It does not make much difference, whether the Secretary reads the rules or you read the rules.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Will the Secretary tell me the reference?

President.—He is not now in a position to say about these rules. There is the Superintendent of the Press. After studying the rules, if you want any additional information you may ask further questions. There are rules published by the Government.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Do the Government know whether they are giving any fixed allowance in the Government Press, Madras.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—No.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Here the answer given is that our task-workers in the Press are better off than many outside. You admit our Government are giving better treatment than those people?

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Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Our workmen are given 15 days' casual leave, extraordinary leave on holidays, sick leave on production of medical certificate, furlough, pensions, etc. In Madras, no leave of any kind is given. It is true they give pension. By comparison it is said that our task-workers are better off than elsewhere.

The scheme of Constitutional Reforms.

446. **Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether in the reign of His Highness the Ex-Raja any scheme of Constitutional Reforms were drawn up, outlined or considered or made the subject-matter of any correspondence by the Government, and if so, whether a copy of it will be placed on the table;

(b) if there was no such scheme, whether the Government had any correspondence about Constitutional Reforms to be introduced in the State, and, if so, whether the whole correspondence will be placed on the table?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—(a) and (b). There is no official correspondence on the subject.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—What is the meaning of the term "official correspondence"?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—It is a well-known term. It cannot be explained. It does not require any explanation.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I have not been able to follow this term "official correspondence" as distinguished from "non-official correspondence", so that I may put my supplementary question.

President.—You want to know what official correspondence is. Ordinarily speaking, we have official correspondence, demi-official correspondence and confidential correspondence, and we have got separate files in regard to these—the official correspondence, demi-official correspondence and confidential correspondence files, so that there is distinction between them. The difficulty is you have not done much of ordinary routine work in any office. Then, you could have understood these terms. I expect all of you to take part in the administration one day and know all this routine work.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—May I know whether there was any demi-official or confidential correspondence in this matter?

President.—Whether there is or not, we cannot disclose it. The facts or the contents of the correspondence cannot be disclosed.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—May I know whether there is any correspondence?

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